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Harvard Criticizes Covert CIA Campus Activity

Associated Press

Harvard University and the CIA are sharply at odds over the agency's insistence that it be free to continue recruiting and operational practices covertly on the campus, a Senate hearing was told yesterday.

Derek C. Bok, Harvard's president, said the university has drawn up guidelines permitting faculty and staff to maintain publicly known relationships with intelligence agencies that would not "threaten the integrity and independence of the academic community."

But he said it was clear from discussions with CIA Director Stansfield Turner that the agency "intends to ignore" provisions that all recruiting and other CIA activities on campus be open and above board.

In testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, Bok said the CIA insisted on a right to secretly use faculty members, administrators and students to recruit others—especially foreign students—and to collect information useful in its own operations.

"I do not believe that an agency of the United States should act in this fashion," Bok said.

The Senate committee, established in the wake of the exposure of widespread abuses by the CIA and other agencies, is attempting to draft a charter to guide all U.S. intelligence policy.

Bok and two other witnesses, Morton Baratz, general secretary of the American Association of University Professors, and University of California history professor Richard Abrams, urged adoption of regulations barring any covert campus activities by the CIA or other agencies.